Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A device for collecting viable gas-borne matter comprising:

an inlet;

an outlet;

a plate provided intermediate the inlet and the outlet and having a first surface facing the inlet and a second surface facing the outlet; and

a substance provided on the first surface of the plate for capturing viable matter carried in a gas drawn through the inlet;

wherein the substance is configured to maintain the viable matter in a living state without promoting growth of the viable matter and comprises a hydrocolloid and at least one nutrient.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance is at least one of a gel and a semi-solid material.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the substance is relatively colorless.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid comprises at least one of agar, carrageenan, and alginate.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid comprises at least one of arabic, karaya, guar, locust tara, tamarind, daraya, ghatti, tragacanth, cellulose, starch, pectin, knonjac, glactomannans, xyloglucan, and combinations thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid comprises at least one of curdlan, dextran, gellan, B-glucans, chitosan, alginates, inulin, ~~CRC biopolumer,~~ and combinations thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid comprises at least one of gelatin, caseinate, whey, and chitosan.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient is one of a sugar, a cell culture serum, an amino acid, and a blood lipid.

11. (Original) The device of claim 10, wherein the nutrient is selected from the group consisting of glucose, sucrose, bovine serum, glutamic acid, albumin, hemoglobin, charcoal, sodium glycerophosphate, mercaptoacetic acid, sodium chloride, potasium citrate, potasium chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, monopotassium phosphate, disodium phosphate, sodium thioglycollate, L-cysteine hydrochloric, peptone, sodium phosphate, potassium phosphate, and combinations thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient also acts as a pH buffer.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance further comprises at least one of a humectant, water, and an anti-bacterial agent.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the humectant is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil, plant oil, peanut oil, soybean oil, vegetable oil, corn oil, molasses, honey, corn syrup, fruitrim, invertase, invert sugar, glycerin, Triacetin, an hydrogenated glucose syrup, a polydextrose nutrient, and combinations thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the anti-bacterial agent is selected from propylene glycol, vancomycin, and combinations thereof.

16. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the substance further comprises an antifungal.

17. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance may be stored without refrigeration between approximately 12 to 24 months.

18. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the substance is configured to allow removal of the viable matter from the substance in a liquid.

19. (Original) The device of claim 18, wherein the liquid is water.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises at least one of insects, insect parts, and skin cells.

21. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises a virus.

22. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises bacteria.

23. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the inlet is configured for coupling to a device configured to remove matter from the gas before the gas enters the inlet.

24. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is configured for coupling to an exterior surface of a sampling device.

25. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a top portion including the inlet and a bottom portion including the outlet, wherein the device is adapted to allow decoupling of the top portion and the bottom portion to remove the plate.

26. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is a single-use product that is discarded after capturing viable matter.

27. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device includes a second inlet, wherein the inlets are provided at different locations in relation to the suspension medium.

28. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the plate is made of at least one of glass, porous glass fibers, a ceramic material, a porous polymeric material, and a metal.

29. (Previously Presented) A collection device for use in sampling gas that contains viable matter comprising:

a suspension medium for preserving viable matter in a living state without promoting growth of the viable matter; and

means for directing a flow of gas toward the suspension medium;

wherein the suspension medium is configured for capturing viable matter included in the gas as the gas is drawn through the means for directing a flow of gas and comprises a hydrocolloid and at least one nutrient.

30. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the means for directing a flow of gas comprises an inlet.

31. (Original) The collection device of claim 30, wherein the inlet tapers from a top of the inlet to a bottom of the inlet.

32. (Original) The collection device of claim 31, wherein the bottom of the inlet has a rectangular shape when viewed in the axial direction.

33. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium is a gel or a semisolid material.

34. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium is configured to preserve the viable matter without promoting further maturation of the viable matter.

35. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium includes a humectant, an anti-bacterial agent, and a hydrocolloid.

36. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium comprises water and at least one of mineral oil, glycerin, galatin, and carageenan.

37. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium comprises water and at least one of gellan, glycerin, calcium chloride, a polyol, honey, corn syrup, and pectin.

38. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable matter comprises at least one of a bacterium and a virus.

39. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable matter comprises at least one of a anthrax, an insect, an insect part.

40. (Original) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the collection device is a cassette having a top portion and a bottom portion and a plate provided within the cassette, wherein the top portion and bottom portion may be separated to remove the plate.

41-66 (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid comprises at least one of curdlan, xanthan, dextran, gellan, B-glucans, chitosan, alginates, and inulin~~, and CRC biopolumer~~.

68. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the nutrient is a protein.

69. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the humectant is a polyol.

70. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the anti-bacterial agent is chloramphenicol.

71. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the viable matter comprises mold spores.

72. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the suspension medium comprises water and starch.

73. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 29, wherein the viable matter comprises a mold spore.

74. (Previously Presented) A collection device for gas-borne viable matter comprising:

a plate;

a substance provided on the plate and comprising a hydrocolloid material and at least one nutrient for capturing viable matter and maintaining the viable matter in a living state without promoting growth; and

an inlet for directing a gas including the viable matter toward the substance.

75. (Currently Amended) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the hydrocolloid material includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of curdlan, xanthan, dextran, gellan, B-glucans, chitosan, alginates, and inulin~~, and CRC biopolumer~~.

76. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance further comprises a humectant.

77. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 76, wherein the humectant is a polyol and the nutrient is a protein.

78. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance further comprises an anti-bacterial agent comprising chloramphenicol.

79. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the substance is a gel.

80. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the collection device is configured for coupling to a sampling device.

81. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 74, wherein the collection device comprises a top portion comprising an inlet and a bottom portion removably coupled to the top portion.